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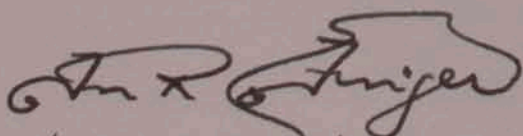
CABINET DECISION

NO. 2116

Submission No.: 1789
Title: DISABLED PERSONS BUREAU

Cabinet approved :-

- a) the establishment of a Disabled Persons Bureau within the Department of Community Development to consist of not more than 2 staff subject to normal Cabinet Sub Committee consideration;
- b) that the Bureau undertake the following activities on behalf of the Northern Territory Government -
 - . act as a focal point in Government for services to disabled people and their families;
 - . consider all policy matters concerned with the needs of the handicapped and disabled;
 - . make recommendations on all Government grant-in-aid/subsidy programs which are concerned with the disabled;
 - . provide information and counselling services to disabled people and their families;
 - . undertake research related to the provision of services for the handicapped;
 - . service advisory committees on the handicapped;
 - . facilitate training for workers with the handicapped; and
- c) that the Minister for Community Development assume overall responsibility for the co-ordination of non-medical and non-educational services for disabled persons and that the Administrative Arrangements Orders reflect this function.


(M.R. FINGER),
Secretary to Cabinet.
21 December, 1981.

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FOR CABINET

SUBMISSION No:1789.....

Title:	Disabled Persons Bureau
Minister	Minister for Community Development
Purpose:	To establish a Bureau within the Northern Territory to co-ordinate all Government services to disabled people.
Relation to existing policy:	This recommendation is consistent with the announced Government policies to improve services to disabled people and is related to Cabinet Decisions 1167 and 1169.
Timing/ legislative priority:	It is suggested that announcement of this initiative be included in the Minister's end of the year report on IYDP activities
Announcement of decision, tabling, etc:	These changes be announced in a Ministerial Statement to the Legislative Assembly.
Acting required before announcement:	
Staffing implications, numbers and costs, etc:	There are staffing implications associated with the establishment of a Bureau. There will need to be establishment cover for two staff presently employed on contract for IYDP, in addition to one other position now re-deployed from the Community Welfare Division.
Total cost:	The estimated cost is \$125,000 but there will be savings in a co-ordinated grants-in-aid program to community organisations.

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Department/Authority DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: HANDICAPPED PERSONS BUREAU

COMMENTS:

The submission appears primarily administrative in nature, with the "Bureau" being established using existing resources. The net additional cost would be \$8,000 in a full year, with establishment costs of \$10,000 in 1981/82. There should also be savings from other Departments.

Submission supported.

KB Clarke

SIGNED: K B CLARKE

DESIGNATION: A/ASSISTANT UNDER TREASURER

DATE: 14 December 1981

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Department/Authority LAW

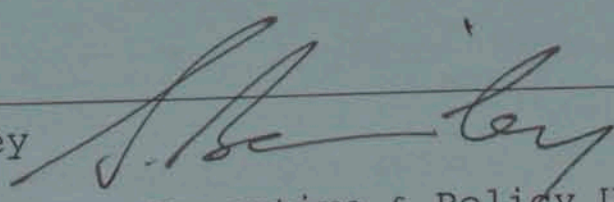
COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: HANDICAPPED PERSONS BUREAU

COMMENTS:

There are no legal or constitutional barriers
to the proposal.

SIGNED: S.R. Bailey



DESIGNATION: Director, Executive & Policy Unit for Solicitor-General

DATE: 11 December, 1981.

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Department/Authority PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: HANDICAPPED PERSONS BUREAU

COMMENTS:

This Office supports the concept of a Bureau for Handicapped persons within the Department of Community Development. The task of assisting handicapped persons to obtain employment and the redeployment of employees with a disability within the Northern Territory Public Service would be more effective with the Bureau as a co-ordinating body.

This Office recommends the option referred to in the Submission of compensating for the three new positions required for the Bureau by deleting established positions from low priority programs within the Department of Community Development.

SIGNED:  P.J. BARTHOLOMEW

DESIGNATION: for Public Service Commissioner

DATE: 14 December 1981

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Department/Authority DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

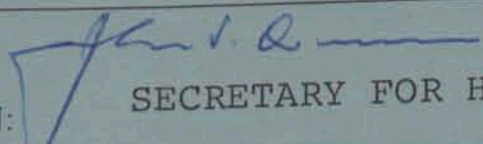
COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: HANDICAPPED PERSONS BUREAU

COMMENTS:

1. This Department supports the submission in principle.
2. I would suggest that careful thought be given to the staffing of the Bureau, if it is to be established. The people suitable for short term project type functions performed by the I.Y.D.P. group may not be suitable for appointment to the Bureau. The objectives of I.Y.D.P. are not identical with those of the proposed Bureau. Also, one of the appointees to the Bureau should be a person with some skill in money management, because the Bureau will require some financial expertise in the co-ordination of grants-in-aid to disabled people's organizations. The group should also be kept small, or it will appear out of proportion as a service for only 5000 people.
3. Attachments A and B referred to in the submission were not attached to my copy, so I am not able to comment on them.
4. The proposals may affect the manner in which such services as the Program of Aids to the Disabled and the Rehabilitation Unit are administered. Those services are presently arranged by co-operation between the Commonwealth government and the NT Department of Health. Territory contact with the National Advisory Council for the Handicapped may also be directed through the new Bureau. The submission does not deal with the proposals in such detail as this, and I would be grateful for further information about these matters, if the proposals are approved.
5. I understand from the submission that the Department of Education has also been given the opportunity to comment on this submission. I consider that the Housing Commission should also be consulted; this may already have occurred.

SIGNED:



DESIGNATION:

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH

DATE:

11 December 1981

CONFIDENTIAL



SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS
DARWIN

Secretary,
Department of Community Development,
P.O. Box 1197,
DARWIN N.T. 5794

Attention: Mr Richard Nelson

You have requested comment on your Draft Cabinet Submission on the Handicapped Persons Bureau.

I support the intent of the Cabinet Submission to locate a Handicapped Persons Bureau in your Department to carry on the work of the IYDP Secretariat.

Experience in the United States in the area of transport facilities has highlighted that a 'go it alone' approach is wasteful. Co-ordination is essential as is a close working relationship with functional areas within Government to ensure an optimum balance between the assessed needs of the disabled and the most appropriate/cost effective means of servicing them.

There may be value in announcing Cabinet's Decision within the Year of the Disabled or soon after, rather than waiting for the next Assembly Sitting.

R.J. UNWIN

10 DEC 1981



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Box 4821, P.O., Darwin, N.T., 5794

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Telephone: (089) 80 4220

Telex: AA 85056

Mr Richard Nelson
Assistant Director
Department of Community Development
P O Box 1197
DARWIN NT 5794

RE DRAFT CABINET SUBMISSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HANDICAPPED PERSON'S BUREAU

The Northern Territory Department of Education has the following comments to offer on the above proposals.

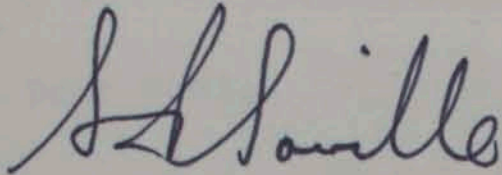
1. It is in support of the establishment of a Handicapped Persons' Bureau within the Department of Community Development to act mainly as -
 - a. a focal point of reference for handicapped persons in the provision of services and advice;
 - b. a liaison and coordinating Bureau between Health, Education, Community Development and other relevant Departments.
2. The announcement in the Legislative Assembly of the creation of this Bureau in the IYDP (1981) is fully supported.
3. It is suggested that staffing of this Bureau should be at the following levels.
 - a. One (1) E3 position
 - b. One (1) A9 position
 - c. One (1) A3 position

The rationale for the suggestion of the E3 position is that, at this level, the officer would have the experience, expertise and authority to work with personnel in other Departments at a corresponding level. This Department supports this recommendation.

4. It is recommended that there should be regular liaison through meetings between Education, Health and Community Development with the Executive Officer of the Handicapped Person's Bureau.

5. The terminology "International Year of the Disabled Person" may be more appropriately carried forward to re-title the Bureau "Disabled Person's Bureau".
6. Recommendations 26, 27, 28 and 29 are supported.

Education looks forward to increased and continuing liaison between Departments through the establishment of such a Bureau.



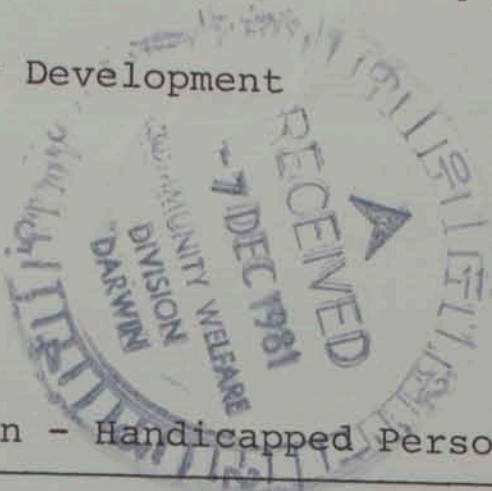
S P SAVILLE
Secretary



CO-ORDINATOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER
DARWIN

Mr. N. Lynagh
Secretary
Department of Community Development
P.O. Box 1197
DARWIN N.T. 5794

4 December 1981



*Am held
7/12/81
Congratulations*

Dear Noel,

Draft Cabinet Submission - Handicapped Persons Bureau

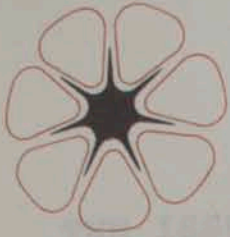
I refer to a draft Cabinet Submission in the name of the Minister for Community Development proposing the establishment of a Handicapped Persons Bureau to co-ordinate Government activity in the field.

I support the submission and its recommendations. The estimated cost of \$125,000 per annum is a small price to pay against the estimate of 5100 disabled Territory persons and it is important that gains made during the IYDP are not lost after 31 December 1981.

Yours sincerely,

Ray McHenry
RAY MCHENRY

DATE REC'D	7/12/81	SEC No.	3553
TO	<i>Mr Pentry</i>		
ACTION REQUIRED:		DATE DUE:	
REPLY for sign. by Sec.	<input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	
CO-ORDINATED RESPONSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	/ /	
DIRECT ACTION BY DIV.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		(Co-ordinator)
FOR INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>		
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	<input type="checkbox"/>		
SECRETARY	Department of <i>CD</i> Community Development		



NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

P.O. BOX 1680
DARWIN, N.T. 5794

Telephone: 89 6553

Reference: BS6/039

11 DEC 1981

The Secretary,
Department of Community Development,
P.O. Box 1197,
DARWIN. N.T. 5794

Attention: Mr. Richard Nelson,
Assistant Director

Dear Sir,

HANDICAPPED PERSONS BUREAU

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the Draft Cabinet Submission.

We feel that such a Bureau would complement and assist the work of the Regulatory Authorities in this field.

Yours faithfully,

J.A. BATTY
Acting Secretary

11 DEC 1981

THE ISSUES:

1. The Chief Minister in his Statement to the Legislative Assembly in May 1980 indicated the Government's intention to develop programs which would achieve an "optimum level of services for disabled people and their families". Initiatives were announced which demanded a high level of organisation and increased resources. The major impediments to implementing the Government's announced policy has been the difficulty in establishing responsibility within Government departments for handicapped services and co-ordinating activities between departments to achieve a result.
2. The Government must consider ways of reducing fragmented services to the disabled by an effective co-ordination of resources, policy, planning and management. The issue then becomes one of establishing a focal point within the Government for handicapped persons matters, such as a Bureau, or relying upon existing arrangements between departments and the community. The issue becomes even more crucial at the end of the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP) with the disbandment of the IYDP Unit.

BACKGROUND:

3. In "A Report of the Board of Inquiry, The Welfare Needs of the Northern Territory August 29, 1979", the recommendation was made to establish a "co-ordinated approach involving Health, Education, and Welfare which would result in the assessment of needs, an assignment of roles, and the sharing of resources". This recommendation resulted from a number of submissions from groups and parents who identified the absence of Government co-ordination as a major problem.
4. The "Review of Services for the Handicapped in the Northern Territory May, 1979", recognised the

importance of co-ordination by recommending that the Health, Education, and Welfare Task Force with the Chief Minister's Office, "clarify the respective roles of the various Departments in providing services to the handicapped".

5. The roles of particular departments still remain undifferentiated in services to the handicapped especially with respect to accommodation, residential programs, and grants to community organisations.
6. Cabinet Decision No. 1167 approved the formation of Regional Committees on the Handicapped to promote co-ordination and asked that the Health, Education and Community Development Task Force oversight activities in this area. The Committees are basically advisory, therefore do not have authority to co-ordinate Government policy, whilst the Task Force has been discontinued.
7. Cabinet Decision 1169 approved the establishment of a unit to undertake the IYDP observance in the Northern Territory. By default, the IYDP Secretariat has begun to fill the Government's co-ordination vacuum in an attempt to "marry" IYDP aims and the improvement of services for disabled people in the Territory as foreshadowed by the Chief Minister.
8. Attempts to co-ordinate the Government's services to the disabled have been thwarted by the differing philosophies of departments, the absence of mandate or authority vested in any one particular arm of the Government, fragmented funding programs, and a failure to accord full time status to this co-ordination task.

CONSIDERATION OF
THE ISSUES:

9. The IYDP Unit has demonstrated the need for streamlining, the value of a specialist knowledge in the area of disabilities, the importance of advocacy, and the advantage of a focal point in Government to assist the community to use the services.
10. However, IYDP ends as of 31 December 1981. The Commonwealth and State/Territory IYDP Council of Ministers has noted their concern that initiatives began during the Year may be lost without provisions for on-going programs.
11. Some States like New South Wales and Tasmania have established Handicapped Persons Bureaux as well as specific Ministerial responsibility for disabled people. In Tasmania, this is noteworthy in that a Bureau was established despite the small population in that State.
12. The Australian Bureau of Statistics in their "Survey of Handicapped Persons" estimates the number of disabled in the Northern Territory at 5,100 persons.

OPTIONS:

13. Option 1. To do nothing or phaseout involvement.
- Option 2. To continue the initiatives of the Government after the end of IYDP by the establishment of a Northern Territory Disabled Persons Bureau with a mandate to co-ordinate Government services for the disabled.
- Option 3. To rely upon existing co-ordination arrangements between the departments providing services to the handicapped such as the Co-ordination Committee or an interdepartmental task force.

Option 1 is not congruent with the announced Government intentions to improve services. Option 3 has failed in the past due to time constraints, the need for specialist knowledge in the area of disabilities, and the overlap between departments.

Option 2 is supported as being efficient, accountable, and vested with the necessary authority - all indispensable ingredients to implement Government policy in this complex area.

PUBLIC IMPACT OF THE
RECOMMENDATIONS:

14. The Minister for Community Development has written to the non-Government organisations seeking their views on follow-up plans to the Year and the continuing role of the Government in handicapped services. Most organisations have highlighted the need for Government co-ordination.
15. Those departments most concerned with services to the disabled, such as Education, Health, and Community Development, support the concept of a focal point in Government for handicapped services.
16. Handicapped persons have voiced concern at finding the appropriate services within Government departments and support the availability of information and advice from a single source within the Government.
17. On a national level, this initiative would be viewed as an effective way of continuing the aims and programs of IYDP.
18. The budget for the IYDP Unit this past year included \$49,000 for salaries, \$36,000 administrative expenses, and \$40,000 for IYDP grants, or \$125,000, (total).

FINANCIAL CONSIDER-
ATIONS:

EMPLOYMENT
CONSIDERATIONS:

19. The present IYDP Unit comprises five persons including two contract employees and three other persons on re-deployment from the Community Welfare Division. A Handicapped Persons Bureau would require three persons. The two persons presently on contract need establishment cover at the A9 and A3 levels. An A7 would be required as back-up for project work. An option to these new positions would be to delete established positions from low priority program (s) within the Department of Community Development to compensate for the new positions now to be added. Another option is to continue to employ the IYDP staff on contract.

COMMONWEALTH AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS:

20. The IYDP Unit has already undertaken extensive consultations with the Commonwealth. A continuation of this close co-operation would be welcomed by the Commonwealth. For the first time the Northern Territory Government, through the IYDP Unit, has worked with Local Government on matters affecting disabled people particularly in the area of improved access to City Corporation facilities.

CO-ORDINATION:

21. There has been consultation on this matter with individuals, community groups, and Government departments by the Department of Community Development. Most support the locating of a Bureau within the Department of Community Development.

LEGISLATION:

22. Legislation is not required.

PUBLICITY:

23. At Attachment "A" is the draft of a Statement to be made in the Legislative Assembly.

24. Attachment "B" is a suggested press release.

TIMING:

25. It would be appropriate to announce to the Legislative Assembly the Government's intention to establish a Bureau for Handicapped Persons. The Minister for Community Development has already made a statement to the Assembly in June on progress in this area and foreshadowed an end of the year report on services to the disabled.

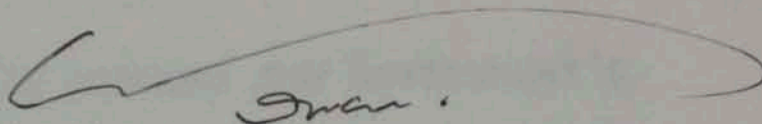
RECOMMENDATIONS:

26. It is recommended that Cabinet approve the establishment of a Disabled Persons Bureau within the Department of Community Development.

27. That the Bureau undertake the following activities on behalf of the Northern Territory Government.

- act as a focal point in Government for services to disabled people and their families
- consider all policy matters concerned with the needs of the handicapped and disabled
- make recommendations on all Government grant-in-aid/subsidy programs which are concerned with the disabled
- provide information and counselling services to disabled people and their families
- undertake research related to the provision of services for the handicapped
- service advisory committees on the handicapped
- facilitate training for workers with the handicapped

28. It is further recommended that the Minister for Community Development assume overall responsibility for the co-ordination of non-medical and non-educational services for disabled persons and that the Administrative Arrangements Orders reflect this function.
29. It is recommended that the continuation of Regional Committees on the Handicapped be reviewed when their end of the year reports become available.



MARSHALL PERRON

STATEMENT

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IS TO IMMEDIATELY SET UP A DISABLED PERSONS BUREAU TO DEVELOP AND CO-ORDINATE SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR HANDICAPPED PEOPLE. THE BUREAU WILL BE WITHIN THE PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

THE BUREAU IS AN OUTGROWTH OF ACTIVITIES INITIATED DURING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS (IYDP) WHICH DEMONSTRATED THE NEED FOR CONTINUED PUBLIC AWARENESS AND IMPROVED SERVICES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE.

THE BUREAU WILL BE STAFFED BY MEMBERS OF THE IYDP SECRETARIAT INCLUDING THE CO-ORDINATOR, MRS ROBYNE BURRIDGE. THE EXPERIENCE GAINED DURING THIS PAST YEAR WILL ENSURE THAT THE BUREAU IS OPERATIONAL FROM THE ONSET.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BUREAU HONOURS THE GOVERNMENT'S UNDERTAKING TO IMPROVE SERVICES TO DISABLED PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE TERRITORY.

THE BUREAU WILL ACT AS A FOCAL POINT IN GOVERNMENT WHERE HANDICAPPED PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES WILL RECEIVE ADVICE ON TERRITORY, COMMONWEALTH AND COMMUNITY AID PROGRAMS THEREBY ELIMINATING THE FRUSTRATION OF "SHOPPING AROUND". AN INFORMATION AND RESOURCE SERVICE WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED BY THE BUREAU TO ASSIST COMMUNITY GROUPS.

IN ADDITION THE BUREAU WILL CONSIDER POLICY MATTERS RELATED

PRESS STATEMENT

TO HANDICAPPED PERSONS, MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON GOVERNMENT GRANTS-IN-AID, UNDERTAKE RESEARCH, AND SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEES ON THE HANDICAPPED,

DURING IYDP, THE GOVERNMENT WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH THOSE DISABLED PEOPLE IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES AND INITIATED AN OUTREACH PROGRAM OF VISITS TO THESE COMMUNITIES TO CONSULT WITH DISABLED PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THIS INITIATIVE WILL BE CONTINUED BY THE BUREAU.

THE BUREAU WILL BE GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLE THAT DISABLED PERSONS, AS A RIGHT, WILL HAVE ACCESS TO ALL ASPECTS OF COMMUNITY LIFE.

THE BUREAU WILL BE STAFFED BY MEMBERS OF THE IYDP SECRETARIAT INCLUDING THE CO-ORDINATOR, MRS ROBYN DUBRIDGE. THE EXPERIENCE GAINED DURING THIS PAST YEAR WILL ENSURE THAT THE BUREAU IS OPERATIONAL FROM THE ONSET.

MR PERRON STATED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BUREAU HONOURS THE GOVERNMENT'S UNDERTAKING TO IMPROVE SERVICES TO DISABLED PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE TERRITORY.

THE MINISTER SAID THAT THE BUREAU WILL ACT AS A FOCAL POINT IN GOVERNMENT WHERE HANDICAPPED PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES WILL RECEIVE ADVICE ON TERRITORY, COMMONWEALTH AND COMMUNITY AID PROGRAMS THEREBY ELIMINATING THE FRUSTRATION OF "SHOPPING AROUND". AN INFORMATION AND RESOURCE SERVICE WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED BY THE BUREAU TO ASSIST COMMUNITY GROUPS.

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"THE BUREAU IS AN OUTGROWTH OF ACTIVITIES INITIATED DURING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS (IYDP) WHICH DEMONSTRATED THE NEED FOR CONTINUING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND IMPROVED SERVICES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE", STATED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, MARSHALL PERRON.

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"THE BUREAU WILL BE GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLE THAT DISABLED PERSONS, AS A RIGHT, WILL HAVE ACCESS TO ALL ASPECTS OF COMMUNITY LIFE", STATED MR PERRON.

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